

*STATE ROUTE 16: TACOMA NARROWS BRIDGE PROJECT*

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**Tacoma Narrows Bridge Project**  
**Nighttime Construction Noise**  
**Quarterly Report: July – September 2005**

*Submitted on October 14, 2005 to:  
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**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Tacoma Narrows Constructors have been issued a noise variance by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. The variance was issued for noise levels expected to result from construction work between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. in conjunction with the construction of the new Tacoma Narrows Bridge. The variance was issued with several conditions, including that WSDOT provide quarterly reports to the Health Department on activities relevant to the variance.

This is the eleventh quarterly report and covers the period including July through September 2005. The following areas are addressed in this report:

- Overview of Nighttime Construction Activities
- Communication Activities
- Upcoming Activities
- Attachments
  1. Public Mailings
  2. Nighttime construction activities log
  3. Nighttime noise measurements

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## OVERVIEW OF NIGHTTIME CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES : JULY – SEPTEMBER '05

Land-based work construction activities took place on the project site between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. on a total of ten (10) nights during the period including April, May and June 2005. There was a total of eleven (11) nights when work occurred on the existing bridge tower for seismic retrofit work. This work resulted in lane closures on the existing bridge.

Nighttime construction work during this period took place in the Narrows at the new bridge towers, at the temporary concrete batch plant, and along the SR 16 mainline roadway on both sides of the bridge.

During this period, no complaints were received by WSDOT about construction noise from the project that occurred during nighttime hours.

Regular concrete production, typically four times per week, continued during this period at the temporary concrete batch plant.

Roadway work on the SR 16 mainline requiring temporary lane closures took place during nighttime hours on either side of the Narrows for a total of ten (10) nights during this period.

Specific descriptions of the type, location, and times of this work are provided in Attachment 2. Actual noise measurements collected during nighttime construction activities are summarized in Attachment 3.

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## **COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES**

### **> INFORMATION & HOT LINE**

A telephone information and “hotline” continues to be operational providing information about upcoming nighttime construction activities. It also provides residents an opportunity to communicate at any time of day with a live person about questions and/or concerns relating to the project nighttime construction activities and noise. This service operates 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The phone number is 253-620-4440.

Nighttime construction activity information is provided in a recorded message by dedicated staff person, and updated, as necessary, to provide the most current information. Messages can also be left on the information line concerning the nighttime construction activities and these messages will be responded to within 24 hours (on project working days).

Residents can also communicate directly with a person who can provide relevant information about project nighttime construction activities, accept comments, and if appropriate, directly contact WSDOT project staff. When project construction activities are taking place, the person staffing the “hot line” is able to immediately contact WSDOT project staff and to relay comments/complaints received. If requested by the caller, WSDOT project staff will return the call as soon as feasible.

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### **> WEBSITE**

To maximize public access to timely information about nighttime construction activities, a section of the project’s web site is dedicated to providing quick, easy access to information concerning nighttime construction activities. Information on this web site is updated daily to provide the most current information.

Comments and concerns about the nighttime construction activities can be submitted to project staff through the web site and will be responded to within 24 hours (on project working days).

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### **> POSTAL CARRIER ROUTE MAILINGS**

As described in the Communication Plan for Nighttime Construction Noise, information sheets were mailed to residences and businesses along the project corridor.

Prior to each calendar month, residents along the project corridor have been mailed notification flyers about nighttime work activities scheduled to take place throughout the upcoming month. Each monthly flier is mailed to 4000 addresses.

Copies of the notification flyers distributed during this period are provided in Attachment 1.

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## COMPLAINT RESPONSE & RESOLUTION

During this quarter (July - September '05), WSDOT received no complaints about noise from the project occurring during nighttime hours.

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## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

During the upcoming quarter, October - December '05, construction activities will continue throughout the project site along the SR 16 corridor from Jackson Avenue to the vicinity of 36<sup>th</sup> Street.

Work activities in the Narrows will continue on construction of the new bridge towers. Tower work is scheduled to take place six days per week with the work sites being staffed seven days per week. The majority of tower construction will take place between 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., but some activities will occur outside those hours. Tower construction is nearly complete and the cable spinning operations are scheduled to begin next quarter.

Concrete production will continue at the temporary batch plant typically four times per week. Concrete pours for the upper struts will be at both tower locations in the Narrows, the anchorage sites for the new Narrows Bridge, the spinning pads on the Tacoma side, and retaining wall locations. The majority of concrete production will take place between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., but some pours may start earlier and may continue later due to the magnitude of the pours as described in the noise variance.

While roadway work will take place on each side of the Narrows along the full length of the project corridor, the vast majority of this work will be conducted during daytime hours. The project's prevailing roadway construction strategy is to shift mainline SR 16 traffic onto temporary alignments that can be maintained for extended periods while most construction of new roadways takes place away from traffic. The relatively small amount of nighttime work required by this strategy is for construction of the "tie-ins" between the roadway configurations, the actual shifting of traffic lanes, and occasional short duration work requiring temporary lane closures such as for sign placement.